

REMARKS

The Examiner has requested that the priority data for this application be identified at the beginning of the Specification. This has been done by amendment.

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11 and 13 are hereby cancelled. New claim 20 is presented for consideration.

Claims 3, 5-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17-19 each stands objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 3, 5, 7, 12, 14 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims in this group, 6, 8, 9, 15, 18 and 19, each depends from one of the rewritten claims so as to likewise be allowable.

Only claim 16 stands rejected based upon prior art. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,979,195 (Martin) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,200,051, to Nakahara et al (Nakahara).

It is respectfully submitted that Martin and Nakahara do not, together, teach or suggest the method recited in claim 16. By reason of deforming the hem into a substantially perfectly circular shape preparatory to trimming, high speed, precise, and consistent trimming of the hem portion can be effected.

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and further characterizes the trimming step, including cutting the hem portion by a trimming bite that is in a fixed position with the metal tube rotated relative to the trimming bite.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 16, and allowance of the case are requested.

The additional claim fee of \$1,000.00 is enclosed. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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